

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chien et al, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/834,478 (Publication No. US2001/54003). Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 5, 13, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Chien reference mentioned above. The Chien reference claims priority back to three (3) previously filed U.S. provisional applications: (1) Ser. No. 60/197,296, filed April 14, 2000, (2) Ser. No. 60/200,492, filed April 28, 2000, and (3) Ser. No. 60/201,114, filed May 2, 2000. As such, the earliest 102(e) date that could be potentially claimed by the teachings of the Chien reference is April 14, 2000.

When Applicants filed the above-referenced U.S. non-provisional application (Ser. No. 09/714,857), they claimed priority back to an earlier filed U.S. provisional application, Ser. No. 60/166,017, filed November 17, 1999. This claim of priority was confirmed by the U.S. PTO Updated Filing Receipt, dated June 18, 2001. Since the November 17, 1999 priority date of Applicants' application predates the earliest 102(e) date that could be potentially claimed by the teachings of the Chien reference (April, 14, 2000), the Chien reference is not properly regarded as applicable prior art against the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be materially advanced by a telephonic interview, the undersigned would welcome a call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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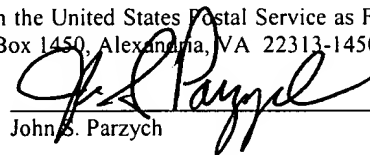
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